



Friday
January 14,
2011

Weekly Views

Following Commissioner Buss' announcement of his departure, Governor Daniels has appointed Putnamville Correctional Facility Superintendent Bruce Lemmon to serve as the new Commissioner for the Indiana Department of Correction. Superintendent Lemmon has served in various capacities within IDOC since 1976, including Deputy Commissioner and Acting Commissioner. Best wishes to Commissioner Buss in his new endeavor and congratulations to incoming Commissioner Lemmon!

Wabash PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) participants received special thanks today from Virgil Madden, Senior Policy Advisor for Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman. The Lieutenant Governor was very touched and impressed by the recent holiday cards designed and made by Wabash PLUS; part of the 1,500 cards made for her annual Hoosier Cheer for Our Heroes campaign. Mr. Madden also presented WVCF/PLUS staff with the Partner in Progress Award, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the Lieutenant Governor. The honor is the first of its kind for the Indiana Department of Correction and for the IDOC PLUS program. (see photo below)

Pendleton Juvenile Recreation Department held its first "Iron Man Competition". There were 110 participants in this week long event. The students who participated in the event had to complete work-out stations, in which they were judged on. There were 38 winners in the Iron Man Competition. All winners received a pizza party at the end of the competition.

Offenders from the Westville Correctional Facility's Inside Out Dad's Program spent an afternoon in front of a video camera. The offenders filmed themselves reciting messages of love, concern and encouragement to their children. The videos are sent with the hope that dad's message will brighten their child's day.



Pendleton Correctional Facility Officer Brandon Mackey was presented with the facility's 2010 "Outstanding Teamwork Award" in recognition of his extraordinary commitment to the facility's K9 Program. The award is presented annually to a K9 Officer who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to accomplishing the K9 Unit's mission while promoting unit cohesion.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony for 30 students who completed their GED. Of the 30 graduates, two earned an Honors diploma. Along with the GED graduations, the Vantage Pointe Learning Center also reported that since July 1, 2010 they have had 140 students obtain their GED, issued 1096 high school credits, had seven students become certified in telecommunications, 88 students become certified in the copper based part of the C-tech program and 50 students become certified in the fiber optics part of the C-tech program. The keynote speaker for the event was former State Senator Tom Weatherwax.



Two Pendleton Correctional Facility employees were promoted and honored during a pinning ceremony conducted in Superintendent Finnan's Office. Congratulations go to Lt. Levi Stonebarger who was promoted to Captain and Sgt. Charlie Fox who received a promotion to Lieutenant. (see photo above)

Lemuel Vega with Christmas Behind Bars Ministry and George "Midget" Whirley with Unchained Ministry visited the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility to deliver inspirational messages of hope and to present each resident with gift bags that included hygiene items, books, and snacks. (see photo left)

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility's Boy Scout Troop #1888 and recreation staff member Mark Stevenson held the Second Annual Pinewood Derby race. The Boy Scouts carved blocks of wood to mold them into cars. They then painted their cars and installed wheels to prepare them to race. Student Hoyt took first place.

Please join Commissioner Buss and staff in congratulating the following staff as they take on new and exciting duties in their new roles throughout the Department. Central Office's Ronald J. Leffler has been appointed to the position of Deputy Compact Administrator. Ronald L. Allen, the Department's ACA Accreditation Manager and Director of the Program Review/Audit Division, will assume his new role as Assistant Superintendent at the Indiana Women's Prison. Director of Mental Health and Special Populations, Frances Osburn, will assume duties as the Superintendent of Edinburgh Correctional Facility. Edinburgh Superintendent Bryan Pearson will assume his new duties as Director, Mental Health and Special Populations. Assistant Superintendent, Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF), Kathy Griffin will assume the duties as Superintendent of the Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility. Chain O Lakes (COL) Superintendent Mike Cunegin will assume the duties as Assistant Superintendent at CIF. Please congratulate each of them and provide them all of your support towards their future success.